

Title IID Grantee Web Information

Project Name: Distance Learning/Professional Development	District: Graham County Education Consortium
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**Project URL: www.fortthomas.org

Brief Description of the grant: (No more than 2 – 3 paragraphs) This plan extends the Graham County Educational Consortium technology project into the next three- year period for the continuation of focused, well-defined staff development in the knowledge and use of technology in the classroom. The infrastructure now in place is a result of previous TLC grant efforts which included a wireless network that connects 18 rural schools in Graham County to the Internet, eight distance learning classrooms that bring academic opportunities to students who live in remote, isolated communities, a well established partnership with Eastern Arizona College and the NAU EdTeching group who provide professional development activities, which allows the Consortium to enter this next phase of technology literacy and integration. Upon the completion of the three-year plan, the use of technology to promote teacher and student proficiency will increase. For teachers, technology will be used as an instructional delivery method and to enhance professional development opportunities needed to meet High Quality Teacher mandates. For students, various forms of technology will be used as tools to promote a variety of learning opportunities. The Graham County Educational Consortium members met to determine technology needs through brainstorming sessions in quarterly strategic planning meetings. The seven goals focused on technology integration activities, upgrading network infrastructure, and expanding the distance-learning network and instructional support.

Description of Professional Development Activities (25% of grant is for Professional Development): The Graham County Education Consortium has teamed up with Eastern Arizona College and EdTeching, a group of Northern Arizona University professors, to provide professional development opportunities to all teachers, paraprofessionals, principals, administrators, and parents in Graham County and Greenlee County.

EAC provides needed training concerning the use of software and hardware in the classroom. Teachers are trained to use all of the Microsoft software applications, PDAs, scanners, digital cameras, etc., and how to implement them in the classroom.

EdTeching has helped the consortium to form a “Community of Leadership” consisting of teachers, principals, and administrators representing each of the member schools. The EdTeching professors are teaching the Community of Leaders how to implement the use of technology in their lesson plans and teaching strategies. EdTeching is also assisting the current Community of Leaders to form a Community of Leaders in their own schools and to exponentially promote the use of technology in the classroom. (See www.edteching.com / Graham County Consortium for more information.)

of Schools Impacted by Grant: 28

of Teachers Impacted by Grant: 459

Math Initiative Focus: The Community of Leadership trainers will collaborate with each participating school on the design, development and implementation of Classroom Technology Integration Projects which incorporate technology, promote components of the Arizona State Math Initiative, align to AZ State standards, and result in student performance based projects with artifacts. (Across the board, all schools involved have exhibited the lowest achievement in the area of mathematics.) These projects will be completed in collaboration with EdTeching.

The development of the EAC course web pages will provide the distance-learning instructors and students with an improved method of disseminating assignments and collecting student work electronically. Instructors and students will have these features available to them from any site with an Internet connection, including computers located at home. Math courses scheduled to be offered are: MAT120 Intermediate Algebra; MAT154 College Algebra; MAT181Plane Trigonometry; and HCE114 Math for Medications.

The Graham County distance learning network (which presently includes Duncan USD, Fort Thomas USD, Morenci USD, Pima USD, San Simon USD and Thatcher USD) will be expanded to include additional distance-learning classrooms in Graham and Greenlee Counties; Safford USD, Clifton US and Bonita School District.

** This should not be the fiscal person of the grant, or an administrator, but the person that will be directing the main activities of the project.*

***This is not required but if you have a website, please give us your URL.*